

such as habitat loss, are capable of bringing some species close to extinction.

Every two to three years, the parties of CITES meet at the Conference of the Parties to review the status of species in danger of extinction and establish trade restrictions. The 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held in March 2013. Several proposals were submitted during the summit, some of them ensuring better protections for endangered species, others trying to downlist species and re-open trade. While proposals to up listing five valuable kinds of shark species were successfully adopted, proposals to establish stronger protections for the polar bear and other species were unfortunately rejected. I am saddened to see that economic interests have prevailed over species conservation, risking to bring species close to extinction. This is unacceptable.

My resolution will recognize the important contributions the Convention has made in regulating international trade in endangered species and protecting endangered species worldwide. It will also applaud the Convention's leadership in protecting the African elephants, five sharks and other endangered species. Lastly, the resolution will urge all parties to the Convention to collaborate effectively to curb excessive exploitation of species for international trade and to adopt stronger protections for several endangered species at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in South Africa in 2016.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has a moral obligation to protect endangered species and their natural habitat. Wild animals are a very important part of our commonly held natural resources and contribute to the diversity and stability of our environment. We must continue to maintain a balanced and healthy ecosystem that allows for the coexistence of both human beings and the world's most incredible species. It is essential to work with the international community to ensure the survival of these species. I believe that the stakes are too high to let national interests and differences hinder the future of our planet.

I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting wildlife and promoting environmental conservation across the globe by supporting this important resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 147—"yes", 148—"yes", 149—"yes."

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE GILMAN BROTHERS COMPANY ON RECEIVING THE PRESIDENT'S "E" AWARD FOR ACHIEVING SIGNIFICANT EXPORT SUCCESSES

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Gilman family and the em-

ployees of the Gilman Brothers Company on receiving the President's "E" Award for achieving significant export successes.

The Gilman Brothers Company is based in Gilman, Connecticut and is one of North America's leading manufacturers of foambord products for signage, display, and graphics. Since its founding in 1897, the company has since been instrumental in developing and introducing innovative products that fit the ever-changing needs of the visual industries. With over a century of rich history, the Gilman Brothers Company has been able to produce world-class and high quality products that are also environmentally friendly. Over the past few years, Gilman Brothers has won assistance from the U.S. Export Import Bank to expand their export sales abroad. I was pleased to tour their factory in 2010, and later that year Gilman Brothers joined me on a Connecticut Trade Mission to Israel. Through the contacts the company made in Israel, Gilman Brothers has been able to increase significantly their exports to Israel and other Middle Eastern countries.

The President's "E" Award was created by Executive Order of the President on December 5, 1961 to recognize persons, firms, or organizations which contribute significantly in the effort to increase United States exports. As a recipient of this prestigious award, the Gilman Brothers Company has proven to be one of the top export leaders in the country. Deputy Secretary of Commerce Rebecca Blank will present Gilman Brothers with the "E" Award on May 20, 2013.

The success of small and family-owned business like the Gilman Brothers Company in the international market demonstrates the dynamism of our nation's economy. Small businesses are key to our economic recovery and the successes of companies like the Gilman Brothers help move our economy forward. The Gilman family and their employees are true assets to our region and our state, and I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Gilman Brothers Company on receiving this well-deserved award.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. LARRY RIVERS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Larry E. Rivers, the eighth president of The Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, Georgia, who will be leaving after seven years as President of the school. He will be honored at a farewell reception on Saturday, May 18, 2013, at the C.W. Pettigrew Center on the FVSU campus.

Born in Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania, Dr. Rivers is an alumnus of Fort Valley State College (now University) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science Education. He also earned a Master's in History from Villanova University, a Doctor of Arts degree in History and Curriculum Development from Carnegie-Mellon University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in History degree from Goldsmith's College of the University of London.

Before he was the President of The Fort Valley State University, Dr. Rivers taught his-

tory at Florida A&M University for more than twenty years, ultimately achieving the rank of "Distinguished University Professor," one of only two on campus. He also held a number of administrative appointments and was selected as Dean of the FAMU College of Arts and Sciences in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Rivers has revolutionized The Fort Valley State University in many ways during his seven-year tenure as President. In the beginning, he certainly had his work cut out for him because the school faced budgetary issues, decreasing student enrollment, aging facilities and low staff morale. Today, a dramatic change can be seen throughout the school, particularly in increased enrollment numbers and several new completed construction projects.

Under Dr. Rivers' leadership, The FVSU has launched several projects including the construction of a \$16.8 million Academic, Science and Classroom Building; a \$9 million Wildcat Stadium; a \$6 million Student Amenities Building; a new seven-building residential complex, a State Animal Facility for Emergencies (SAFE) Center, and several renovations to existing buildings.

Georgia Trend magazine has highlighted Dr. Rivers' strong leadership and The FVSU's rapid growth by naming Dr. Rivers among the "100 Most Influential Georgians" and The FVSU among the "Best Places to Work in Georgia" in 2008. The magazine also named Dr. Rivers as one of "Georgia's Top 25 Leaders" in September 2010. Ebony magazine has recognized Dr. Rivers as one of America's notable black leaders as well. In addition, Dr. Rivers' Slavery in Florida, Territorial Days to Emancipation, published in 2000, won three national awards. His subsequent publications have also received scholarly acclaim and honors.

One of the many things I admire most about Dr. Rivers is his unfailing dedication to The Fort Valley State University. After graduating from the school in 1973, he came back years later to take on the difficult challenge of turning the school around. And what a difference he has made! Enrollment for the 2012-2013 school year has almost doubled since he arrived in 2006. Previously, The FVSU was unranked by the U.S. News Media group, but the University made the list of "America's Best Black Colleges" four years in a row and was recognized by the 2013 U.S. News and World Report as the top public historically black college and university in Georgia.

The city of Fort Valley has also felt the earthquake of change emanating from The FVSU campus. City officials are preparing for the growth of the town of 8,600 residents and existing infrastructure is expanding to accommodate new residents and businesses in large part because of The FVSU.

Pr. Rivers has achieved many things in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the grace of God and his loving wife, the former Betty Hubbard, who has been an extraordinary engaging and dignified first lady to the University. Together, they reared two exceptional sons, Larry Omar and Linje Eugene, who like their parents, are achievers in their own right.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Larry E. Rivers for his seven outstanding years as President of The Fort Valley State University. His energizing leadership has helped to transform this school